

C1
CMT
D1

2. (Twice Amended) A beneficial microorganism propagation-promoting material comprising a mixture of:

a product for promoting a propagation of beneficial microorganisms that help to sustain the health of living beings obtained by inoculating koji mold on grains to create a koji preparation resultant, adding water to said resultant to thereby hydrolyze proteins and/or saccharides contained in said resultant, during said hydrolysis said koji mold and said beneficial microorganisms contained in said resultant and/or added to the resultant are symbiotic in the resultant and propagation of said beneficial microorganisms is promoted when said beneficial microorganisms receive nutrients from the resultant so that said koji mold and said beneficial microorganisms are cultivated together in said resultant, and removing a predetermined amount of phytic acid contained in said grains; and

resistant starch becoming a nutrient of lactic acid bacteria that can grow in the intestines of domestic animals.

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Cancel claim 3 without prejudice.

APR 26 2001

Please amend claim 5 (amended) as follows:

GROUP 1600

C2
Sub D2

5. (Twice Amended) A process for preparing a beneficial microorganism propagation-promoting material which promotes propagation of a beneficial microorganism that helps to sustain the health of living beings, said process comprising the steps of:

inoculating koji mold on grains to create a koji preparation resultant, adding water to said resultant to thereby hydrolyze proteins and/or saccharides contained in said resultant, during said hydrolysis said koji mold and said beneficial microorganisms contained in said resultant and/or added to said resultant are symbiotic in the resultant and propagation of said beneficial microorganisms is promoted when said beneficial microorganisms receive nutrients from said resultant so that said koji mold and said beneficial microorganisms are cultivated together in said resultant, and

removing a predetermined amount of phytic acid contained in said hydrolyzed proteins and/or saccharides.

Cancel claim 6 without prejudice.

Cancel claim 8 without prejudice.